

First United Methodist Church Commerce

Volume 16, Issue 4

April 2018

HOLY WEEK AT FUMC COMMERCE:



MAUNDY
Thursday

A Service of the Lord's Supper
Thursday, March 29
at 6pm in the Chapel

GOOD
FRIDAY



A Service led by WCM
Friday, March 30
at 6pm in the Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1

Sunrise Service
at 6:30am
led by FUMC youth

Early Service
at 8:45am
in the Chapel

Late Service at
10:50am
in the Sanctuary

easter
SUNDAY



Bring a breakfast treat to share! Fellowship and hospitality will be ongoing in the Family Ministries Center throughout the morning. Come fellowship and worship!



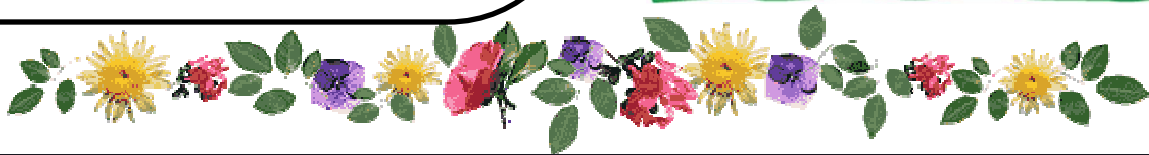
Children's Dept. Bake Sale Saturday, April 14th @ 9am-3pm at Fix And Feed in Commerce

All proceeds will benefit the children attending Bridgeport Camp this summer.

We are asking for the congregation's help in one of two ways:

1. Come out and purchase items from us on the day of the sale OR
2. Bake items for our sale.

You can package your items any way you like (individually, small sets or entire cakes, breads or pies). Please deliver them to the church kitchen on Friday, April 13 by 5pm. Thank you again for your continuous support!



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My Easter Prayer By: Dr. Gregory S. Neal



When I was a child I loved Easter egg hunts. Dressed in pajamas, robe, and house shoes, my brother and I would race out into the back yard in search of the goodies left behind by the “Easter Bunny.” Mom would tell us that one side of the back yard was mine to search and the other side was my brother’s, and then we were free to go hunting! It was exciting as we raced from overturned pot to pile of rocks to bushes to scattered yard equipment, looking for the brightly colored Easter eggs and their enclosed treasures of chocolate and other sugar treats! Dispersed throughout the yard were so many wonderful treats, and the hunt was so much fun, that I never wanted it to end. Indeed, for several years I would pass the stuffed, fluffy Easter bunny that was always there to be gathered in at the end of my hunts. I would walk past it, again and again, looking for more eggs, more candy, more “loot,” until Mom would finally say that it was time to let Mena (our German Shepherd) back into the backyard. Then I would yelp and run to where I’d seen the bunny and cuddle him in my arms!

It was so much fun! And, it was also so sad to have to set all the loot aside, eat breakfast, and then get dressed up and packed into the station wagon to go to Church.

Church! *Why do we have to ruin Easter Morning with going to church?* I can remember that my brother and I actually cried about it, at least once, on our way to morning services. I wanted to stay home and play with my Easter discoveries, cuddle my stuffed rabbit, and get sick eating mounds of chocolate, *not go to church!*

How things have changed! Well, they’ve changed for me, at least ... and, indeed, they changed early. While still a kid I enjoyed going to church; yes, even on Easter morning, church was an adventure! Once I got over being cranky about having to get up early (that hasn’t changed), get dressed in jacket and tie, and sneeze at my Mom’s perfume, church could be a great deal of fun. I got to see my friends, play on the playground, go to Sunday school, and go to “big church” where I could stand on the pew (so I could see what was going on), listen to the pretty music and the Bible stories being read, and walk down front to eat crackers and drink juice from my own little cup! I loved it. And, yes, I suppose that it is a good thing that I still love it today!

My prayer for our Church family this Easter Resurrection Day, and for every Sunday that’s still to come, is that we will all be blessed in our fellowship, our studies, our worship, our service, and our giving together! We have a strong, vibrant, diverse, and loving family of faith, and we have an amazing message to proclaim to a world that is starving for the Good News of Jesus Christ our Lord! May we all realize this remarkable truth, share together this remarkable grace, and offer this remarkable Gospel to all!



We Care Fair **Saturday, April 14 @ 12-5pm** **Commerce Farmers Market**

“bringing families face-to-face with helpful resources in their community”

The Commerce Community Action Program has partnered with Women of Worship to host what they are calling the “We Care Fair” on April 14. The event will place more than two dozen local non-profit organizations in the Farmers’ Market area near downtown Commerce for the community to meet with. The fair allows community members and families who may be in need to connect with resources in Hunt County that may be able to help them. There will also be live music from local artists throughout the afternoon as well, and some downtown businesses will also be providing coupons and special deals on the day of the fair. The event is free to the public and will take place at the Commerce Farmers Market on Bonham Alley.

We need several volunteers to work at the FUMC-C table and connect with the community by playing games and handing out bottles of water and informational church bookmarks.

THE LIGHT

Contemporary Service Sundays @ 6pm in the Family Ministry Center

April will be a month full of joy at The Light! We kick off the month celebrating the Resurrection of our Savior with energetic Easter worship at 6:00. That same week, it will be our pleasure to provide lunch for the students of Texas A&M University-Commerce on Wednesday at the Wesleyan Campus Ministry. In addition to the meal, The Light band will also be there to perform.

Later in the month, we celebrate another momentous occasion: the one-year anniversary of The Light! All of our friends and supporters are invited to join us on Sunday, April 22, for a fried chicken feast starting at 5:00 pm. As we rejoice in a full year of ministry and faithfully anticipate the future, we hope you'll come to offer thanks to God for all that God is doing in and through our worship community.

Finally, on Sunday, April 29, we will worship together with the people of the 8:45 and 10:50 services as one church family. Mark your calendars and set an alarm to come to church early that day!

It's going to be a busy month, so make sure don't miss any of it! Bring a friend and come join us for worship at The Light!

Upcoming Worship

*Sunday, April 1
Easter Sunday*

Sunday, April 8

Sunday, April 15

Sunday, April 25

Sunday, April 22

*Sunday, April 29
Combined Service*

*8:45am ~ Chapel
10:50am ~ Sanctuary
6:00pm ~ Family
Ministry Center*

5th Sunday Combined Worship Service Sunday, April 29th 10am in the Sanctuary

The next 5th Sunday Combined Worship service is Sunday, April 29th. All three services will be worshipping together! Our order of worship will be a combination of both the 8:45 and 10:50 service styles. So, come and see your "friends from the other services" and enjoy our worship together!



Sunday school classes are invited to begin at 9am!

Brought to you by The Worship Committee

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ad Council Chair:

Mike Roberts (903) 886-2142

Lay Leader:

Carole Walker (903) 886-4450

SPPRC Chair:

Mitzi Parker (903) 886-7364

Trustees Chair:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498

Finance Chair:

Jim Brown (903) 886-7439

FUMC Foundation President:

Ann Underhill (903) 886-3922

Connect Team Chair:

Dr. Greg Neal (972) 953-7866

Grow Team Chair:

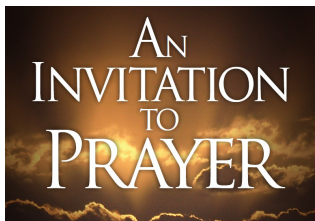
Craig Jensen (903) 886-8713

Serve Team Chair:

Amy Stark (903) 246-1487

Lay Member:

Gene Lockhart (903) 886-3498



Prayer Vigil Wednesdays, March. 28 & April 25 @ 6pm in chapel

You are invited to come together for a half-hour of focused prayer for our church.



The First United Methodist Newsletter is the official publication of FUMC Commerce. The newsletter is published at the end of the month. Inputs may be submitted to the Church office to Bonnie Smith, Communications Specialist, at communications@fumccommerce.org, or call the office at 903-886-3220. Questions may be addressed to the Church office.

****The next deadline is Tuesday, April 17 by 9:00am****

Children's Ministry

Please join us for Children's Sunday School every Sunday morning from **9:45-10:40am** and each evening at 6:00pm.

Our Sunday School Bible Verse for April is: "He began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues. 'He is God's Son,' he declared." Acts 9:20

children's choir

Children's Choir will perform for the church on Sunday, April 22 during the 10:50am service.



VBS 2018:

Rolling River Rampage

Mon, June 18- Fri, June 22
5pm-8pm

Vacation Bible School is coming up quickly! This year's VBS theme will be Rolling River Rampage!! The dates are June 18-22 and will take place from 5-8 each evening.

We need volunteers for stations and as shepherds. We are also looking for small groups to donate meals and drinks (or money for meals)

for each evening. For more information, please contact Shelly Oats at shelly@fumcccommerce.org.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to everyone who donated candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. It was a huge success!





If you're a student in grades 7-12, you're invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the youth room for fun and bible study. During the month of April, we'll be thinking and talking about how our stories fit into God's story. We'll look at men and women of the bible who may have thought they didn't have much to offer God but whose faith and actions made a difference, just like ours can today.

And be sure to mark your calendars for ONE on Sunday, April 29. After morning worship, our confirmands and youth will travel to First UMC Rockwall and join youth from all over North Texas for great food, fun games, youth-led worship, and powerful discussion. Lunch will be provided by local food trucks, and later in the afternoon Rev. Ray Jordan will lead us in engaging our differences, building community, and the filters we put on our stories. The event will be from 1:30 to 5:00. Our confirmands know from attending the Bishop's Rally in February just how much fun events like this can be, so you are welcome and encouraged to join us for this can't-miss opportunity to get excited about Christ, about the Church, and about coming back to grow and serve here at FUMC Commerce. If you want to go with us, just let Nevin know as soon as possible (before Friday, April 13, if you can). Email him at nevin@fumccommerce.org or call/text him at 903.461.9752.



2017-2018 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to our church family members
Kim Bruister
and
Julie McLeroy
who both were awarded
teacher of the year!!



Our Children's Choir sang and waved palms in the 10:50am service on Palm Sunday, March 25.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS DAY



COME HEAR THIS INSPIRING STORY

Cracked, Not Broken

APRIL 2, 2018 | FERGUSON AUDITORIUM | 2:00 PM

Keynote Presenter

KEVIN HINES

SUICIDE SURVIVOR | ACTIVIST | STORY TELLER | FILMMAKER




WESLEYAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
TEXAS A&M COMMERCE

Faith and Mental Health Easter Monday, April 2 @ 6pm

The university and community are invited to the Wesleyan for a soup dinner and Faith and Mental Health.

Please join us and support Pastor Brian in this important effort he was instrumental in bringing to fruition.

 John Smith 555 Your St. Your Town 94321	DATE 2/11/18
PAY TO FUMC	\$25.00
Twenty-Five & 00/100	
MEMO WCM	<i>John Smith</i>
1234 5678 9876 543210	

When you make a contribution by check, please make payable to FUMC. You can make your designation (e.g., WCM, pastor's discretionary fund, Children's Department, Drop a Dollar) in the "Memo" line. Our bank will not accept checks unless they are payable to FUMC.

Celebrating 40 Years of Service



Hunt County
Shared Ministries

Hunt County
Shared Ministries
presents our annual

B B B Q

Friday, April 6, 2018

Lunch 11:00 - 1:00

First United Methodist Church

1709 Hwy 24, Commerce, Texas (across from Texas A&M University-Commerce)

Our 2018 menu includes

Brisket · Chicken · Ribs

Beans · Cole Slaw · Potato Salad · Dessert

Food provided by Baker's Ribs

\$15 Ticket price includes all 3 meats.

Tickets available at www.hcsmfish.org or at the door.

Takeout orders may be placed in advance for delivery or easy pick up.

Call 972.765.6547 or email aqroberts@hotmail.com no later than Wednesday, April 4.

Presented by



Aerospace Systems

PROYECTO ABRIGO MISSION TRIP A SUCCESS! By Jan Helton

I can't say it enough: thank you ALL for your very generous contributions, both monetarily and with gifts for the clinic and the people of Juárez. Spring Break was a busy week at Proyecto Abrigo. Six houses were built for families who have little to nothing, but now they have solid concrete cinder block shelters to call home. The doors and windows will be installed this week so the families can move into their new homes.

Two houses were built by a team of 47 (including 26 children ranging in ages from 4-17!) from University Park UMC in Dallas. Two more were built by a combined team of 15 from two UMCs from Shreveport and Bossier City. Suncreek and San Antonio built one home, and FUMC-Commerce built one house with a team of two old ladies and four maestros! Excellent weather prevailed with azure blue skies throughout the week although it did get considerably chilly at night.

Time was well-spent shoveling sand and gravel, mixing cement in the traditional "volcano" formation (mas agua, por favor!), "buttering" the cinder blocks with fresh mortar, and filling in holes to keep the wind, sand, and rain out.



Shreveport and Bossier City team meeting at the compound



Maestros Kevin and Martin and Dorothy Philbrick

Dorothy Philbrick from Greenland Hills UMC accompanied me on the journey. Dorothy's "magic bag" of fun-filled activities seemed to be bottomless with all the supplies she brought to entertain the children and to bond with the family. Bonding was easily accomplished in no time at all especially aided by Dorothy's bag of endless tricks. Our family had three children aged 7, 11, and 15. They neither spoke nor understood any English, but we communicated with Jan's broken Spanish, Dorothy's bag of entertainment, a lot of pointing, and a whole lot of love. The smiles and joyful laughter of the children were wonderfully contagious and certainly unforgettable.

Our time in Juárez was well-spent with the building of the house although the maestros did most of the work, but the final activity with the family was the dedication of the house to God and the blessing of the house for the family. The most moving part of the entire building process is in this final act and the serving of the first meal in the house, the Lord's Supper. Holy Communion is never quite as holy as it is at a Juárez house blessing that turns the house into a home.



Following the blessing, the children played with bubbles and kites and a soccer ball. The children had to be instructed in how to fly the kites, and of course, one ended up tangled in a tree almost immediately! It was rescued in just a few minutes and was miraculously intact.



Holy Communion during the blessing of the home. This is the first meal in the new house.

It was a wonderful trip made possible by all of you. Thank you, church family, for being an active part in providing a home for a needy family in Juárez, Mexico. Your gift will continue to give shelter and an abundance of blessings to the familia Santamaria for many years to come. Blessings to all of you.



Kevin and Evaline (11 year-old)



Maestro Kevin, Maestro Martin, mother Clara Evette, and Kevin, her 7 year-old son



Martin (maestro) working.



One of the maestros, Dorothy, and Kevin (the 7 year old) working.



Dorothy getting her nails painted by Evaline. Evaline is not allowed to wear nail polish to school, so she painted Dorothy's nails.



So, what is a FISH?

In the mid-1970s, Grace Presbyterian Church pastor Bill Hunt noticed that some of the area's most vulnerable— the young and the elderly – didn't have enough to eat and asked "What if...?" How could that need be addressed? Those musings led to the creation of a "food closet" at the church. He observed that Redeemer Lutheran Church across the highway was involved in meeting the needs of the community and reached out to them to see how the two churches could coordinate their efforts. Rev. Hunt also spoke at other churches to explain what FISH was doing and to enlist their support. In 1987, FISH received its non-profit status as Hunt County Shared Ministries and became a true partnership among area churches, community members, county businesses, and other social service agencies.



The ministry grew to the point that the church could no longer accommodate the food closet so it moved to the old Greenville hospital on Texas Street. Today, it is housed in a building constructed in 2007 on King Street. A year later, Rev. Hunt retired and Wally Jeffers became the new executive director. The ministry and its services continue to grow under Wally's leadership. Help with prescription drug bills and then utility bills became available. Assistance with medical and dental bills, eye exams and glasses, and even help with obtaining IDs so individuals could qualify for work were added. At the King Street facility a community garden was established along with a larger plot that FISH farms to supplement its shelves with the harvest.

So, what is a FISH? Originally it referred to the biblical story of the five loaves and two fish. Wally though created the acronym Faithfully Involved in Sharing Hope. Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH is a vibrant and expanding ministry, available to all Hunt county residents.

How can we help?

1. All funding is local. Churches like FUMC-C, businesses, individuals, civic groups, area schools, and local foundations sustain this ministry. Our April designated and drop-a-dollar giving will benefit FISH.
2. On Friday, April 6, FISH is hosting its annual BBQ fundraiser in the Family Ministry Center for lunch starting at 11am. Please plan to attend or volunteer to support this important ministry.
3. Join us on Saturday, April 28, at 9:30am, at FISH (2805 King Street) for a Service Saturday. Come learn more about the ministry with a tour of the facility and help complete a service project.
4. Donate non-perishable food items, toiletry or household items. Jelly, Spam, Tuna, cereal, soap, toothpaste, laundry soap, dish soap and diapers (size 3, 4, 5) are always in need.



Men's Breakfast
Monday, April 30
@ 7am

at McKay's Restaurant!

Come and have breakfast with

Pastors Greg and Brian, talk about "stuff" and enjoy fellowship and good food together!

e-GIVING Give Online


Remember, you can always give your monthly contributions securely online. To set up a recurring contribution, visit the church website at www.fumccommerce.org, and click on "Ways to Give" and create a profile if you haven't already.

FIRST THURSDAY	Potluck Luncheon April 5 @ 12pm
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Luigi's
ITALIAN CAFE

**Luigi's Gives Back Sunday
April 15**

If you take your bulletin after church, Luigi's will send us 10%. Help support our church by eating some good food!



Reading the Bible Daily

As you seek to grow closer to God through daily prayer and Bible study, you may have your own favorite daily readings. If not, you will find Scriptures for each day listed below. We hope you'll read daily and ask yourself: "How will I be different today because of what I just read?" Some other questions you might ask are: What does this text say about who God is?" "What does this text say about who I am/who we are as human beings?" "What does this text say about our relationship with God?" You may want to reflect on paper with a journal or note pad. We hope this will become a part of your daily prayer time.

In memory of...

Roger Humphries
By: Carole Walker

Loretta Kibler
By: Dee Ann Gorham
Dough Rollins SS
Jim & Susan Patton
Rheba Icenhower
Lena Faulkner
Jim & Janet Latham
Bob & Julie McLeroy
Carole Walker
Mark & Frances Sartwell

George McFarland
By: Mark & Frances Sartwell
Keith & Nancy McFarland



Daily Scripture Readings:

Sunday, Apr 1	John 20:1-18
Monday, Apr 2	1 John 1:1-2:2
Tuesday, Apr 3	Psalm 133
Wednesday, Apr 4	Acts 4:32-35
Thursday, Apr 5	John 20:19-31
Friday, Apr 6	Acts 4:32-35
Saturday, Apr 7	Psalm 133
Sunday, Apr 8	1 John 1:1-2:2
Monday, Apr 9	1 John 3:1-3
Tuesday, Apr 10	Psalm 4
Wednesday, Apr 11	Luke 24:36b-40
Thursday, Apr 12	Luke 24:41-48
Friday, Apr 13	Acts 3:12-19
Saturday, Apr 14	1 John 3:4-7
Sunday, Apr 15	Psalm 4:8
Monday, Apr 16	Acts 4:5-12
Tuesday, Apr 17	Psalm 23
Wednesday, Apr 18	Psalm 23; John 10:27
Thursday, Apr 19	1 John 3:16-18
Friday, Apr 20	1 John 3:18-24
Saturday, Apr 21	John 10:11-18
Sunday, Apr 22	John 10:11-18; 1 John 16-24
Monday, Apr 23	1 John 4:7-21
Tuesday, Apr 24	1 John 4:13-21
Wednesday, Apr 25	John 15:1-8
Thursday, Apr 26	John 15:1-8
Friday, Apr 27	Acts 8:26-40
Saturday, Apr 28	Acts 8:26-40
Sunday, Apr 29	Psalm 22:25-31
Monday, Apr 30	Acts 10:44-48

By the Numbers

	Attendance				
	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>Wed.</u>
Mar 4	52	53	17	61	
Mar 11	39	72	18	63	
Mar 14					—
Mar 18	24	65	16	40	
Mar 25	37	106	19	69	



Prayer Lists

Recent Concerns

Family of Roger Humphries
 (Alta Fay Peden's brother)
 Family of Audrey Moffett
 (Glenn & Jean Ward's daughter)
 John Avery
 Jane Cox
 Freda Lambert
 Mary (Missy) Vance Spears
 (Mary Jane & Charles Vance's daughter)
 Monty Wyse

Continued Prayers (long term)

Healing and peace for our hurting country and world,
 Gene Casselberry, Martha Clevenger, Kenneth &
 Carol Cline (Tammy Naizer's parents), Harold Coker,
 Garrett Cramer, Lois Cranford, Corky Drinkard, Rev.
 Tom Dudley, Jack and Gladys Gray, Sally Grove,
 Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother), Preston Helton
 (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson), Doris Kerbow, Zach-
 ary Madden, Allen Martin, Harold McFarland (Julia
 Robinson's father), Mary Means, Betty Morton, Rich-
 ard Norton, Kyle Pollard (Judy Fane's Son), Robert
 Seay, Dana Shelton, Nancy Stewart, Billy Stocker
 (J.D. Short's uncle), Geneva Teel, Charlie Wilkinson
 (P.K. Kirkpatrick's cousin)

Oak Manor: Barbara Gish and Euple Walker

Draughn's/Country Home Estate: Roger & Jean Arnold, Helen Cole, Joe and Mary Louise McMahan, Edna O'Quinn, and Gayle Shumate

Austin: Ruby Vander Velde



Remembering those serving in our military...

Lt. Dan Barton
 Daniel Chamberlain
 Josh Ham-Nadine & Clay Yeager's grandson-in-law
 Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
 Col. Keith Williams
 Kris Yoder-John & Rebecca Sneed's son-in-law

*"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."
 James 5:16*

Help us hold each other in prayer by contacting the church office with new prayer concerns and updates on existing prayer requests.

If you have someone you would like to add or remove from the prayer list, please let the church office know (903-886-3220).

To watch or listen to Dr. Neal's sermons online, go to:
www.revneal.org
www.youtube.com/revneal
www.facebook.com/RevNealVideo



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First United Methodist Church
 1709 Highway 24
 Commerce, TX 75428
 Senior Pastor - Dr. Gregory S. Neal

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
 NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
 Articles for the next newsletter are due
Tuesday, April 17 by 9:00am